

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY
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SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0
CLASSIFICATION

CIA/OCI

WHIZWH 740334

WHSS

[Redacted Box]

TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

25X1

CIA/WHSS

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

25X1

[Redacted Box]

ITEM NO: WH-7

DATE: MARCH 30, 1974

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA: SITUATION DETERIORATING AT KAMPOT CITY

25X1

[Redacted Box]

THE

SITUATION HAS WORSENERED AT KAMPOT DURING THE PAST WEEK. KHMER COMMUNIST FORCES, USING GOOD FIRE DISCIPLINE, ARE CONTINUING TO SHELL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AROUND THE CITY. KAMPOT'S NORTHERN DEFENSE PERIMETER WAS DANGEROUSLY WEAKENED TODAY WHEN A CAMBODIAN ARMY BATTALION RETREATED IN DISORDER FROM THAT SECTOR.

THE NEW COMMANDER AT KAMPOT HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO TRY TO REGAIN THE INITIATIVE, CLAIMING THAT HE IS SHORT ON MANPOWER. HIS FAILURE TO TAKE OFFENSIVE ACTION AND THE CONTINUING INSURGENT ATTACKS HAVE RESULTED IN LOW TROOP MORALE. THE HEAD OF THE CAMBODIAN NAVY HAS THREATENED TO

DATE:
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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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25X1

SOURCE REF:

27808

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PULL HIS MARINES OUT OF KAMPOT UNLESS THEY ARE ALLOWED TO GO ON THE ATTACK.

THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND IN PHNOM PENH, WHICH HAS BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH THE EFFORT TO RETAKE OUDONG, RECENTLY HAS ATTACHED LITTLE URGENCY TO THE SITUATION AT KAMPOT. THANKS TO PRODDING BY US OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT LEADERS ARE NOW TAKING STEPS TO BOLSTER KAMPOT'S DEFENSES. REINFORCEMENTS ARE BEING SENT BY AIR TO THE NAVAL BASE AT REAM FOR ONWARD TRANSPORT BY SEA TO KAMPOT. MORE ARMS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARE ALSO BEING DISPATCHED TO THE BESIEGED CITY. THERE ARE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF FOOD AND WATER AT KAMPOT. MANY OF THE CITY'S CIVILIAN RESIDENTS HAVE LEFT, WITH PERHAPS ONLY

25X1

5,000 REMAINING.

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